Rosson’s Roundup

I spent most of the week in Washington, DC working with some of our Texas businesses that are trying to increase efficiency of produce inspections at Ports of Entry along the border with Mexico. We met with Customs and Border Protection, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and several Congressional members and their staff. More inspectors, less delay on identification of insects and more diagnostic equipment at critical border crossing points were some of the possible solutions. Part of my role was to quantify the magnitude of the trade that occurs and what’s at stake if things don’t get fixed – about $2.0 billion and 200,000 jobs, nationwide, so a fairly substantial issue and impacts. Many thanks to Flynn Adcock and Dan Hanselka for getting the numbers to me on very short notice.

I’m optimistic that CBP and APHIS will get this fixed, and in fact, there is a pilot underway in California that may be replicated for Texas. But with 140,000 truckloads of fresh produce entering Texas ports last year, and given the potential for the introduction of harmful invasive species, it’s a major issue, not only for Texas, but the United States.

Finally, baseball season starts tonight on Olsen Field at Blue Bell Park, and the weather is good! A positive sign, I hope.

Luis Ribera
Associate Professor & Extension Economist

My primary responsibilities are to the 20-county area of the South district. My major responsibilities include providing information, training, and teaching materials to strengthen the educational programs in farm management for County Extension Agents and producer committees. Due to the wide variety of agricultural industries in District 12, I work consistently with fellow Extension Specialists, County Agents and Research Station Researchers on multidisciplinary programs. Main areas that I’m currently working on are biofuel production, carbon sequestration and lifecycle analysis, horticultural production, both conventional and organic, small acreage horticultural production, direct marketing outlets, food safety, food security and international trade mainly related to fruits and vegetables.
**Agricultural Economics Department Brown Bag Seminar**

When: Friday, February 15 at 12:45 pm  
Where: AGLS 372  
Who: James Mjelde  
Dept. of Agricultural Economics  
Texas A&M University

Subject Pool Effects Among the General Population and Students: A Choice Experiment Example

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**Agricultural Economics Department Brown Bag Seminar**

When: Friday, February 22 at 12:30 pm  
Where: AGLS 301  
Who: Arthur Lewbel  
Department of Economics  
Boston College

Generalized Random Coefficients with Equivalence Scale Applications

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**Upcoming Birthdays**

Fred Boadu 2/18  
Ron Griffin 2/18  
Toni Merchant 3/3  
Ariun Ishdorj 3/4  
Jennifer Braziel 3/9

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**Thank You!!**

Department Head Office  
for hosting Friday coffee

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**New Publication**


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**Position Announcements**

**Clinical Assistant Professor**, Agricultural Commodity Markets (Research and Extension)  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. The Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics seeks candidates who will develop a nationally recognized research and Extension outreach program in agricultural commodity market analysis. The position is defined as a nine-month, non-tenured faculty appointment with a focus on research and Extension (outreach). Depending on the availability of funding, programmatic need and performance, the successful candidate may have the opportunity to convert to a tenure-track faculty appointment after five years. The position does not entail classroom teaching responsibilities. Ph.D. in agricultural economics, economics, business, finance, or a related field. Familiarity with the mission of land grant institutions, as well as familiarity with Extension and outreach. Candidates should create a profile and upload all of the following materials at [http://jobs.illinois.edu](http://jobs.illinois.edu): letter of application, CV, an outreach statement, a research statement, and contact information for three professional references. To ensure full consideration, a complete application with all requested information must be uploaded/submitted by March 15, 2013. For further procedural information, candidates may contact Melissa Warmbier, 217-333-8859, mwarmbie@illinois.edu. For further information, contact Scott Irwin, Chair, Search Committee for Agricultural Commodity Analysis Position, at sirwin@illinois.edu.

**Click here for more position announcements**

Faculty, staff, and graduate students are encouraged to submit articles and photos on current events. Deadline for all submissions is noon, Thursday. Please send your information to valnoyes@tamu.edu.